COMMANDERS DIGEST

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE • WASHINGTON, D.C.

Vol. 2, No. 78 September 28, 1966

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SecDef Orders Increased Aircraft Production in FY68

Defense Secretary McNamara said it is prudent to act now to increase the production of tactical aircraft for FY68 by approximately 280 planes.

He prefaced this announcement at his Sept. 22 news conference by explaining, "We have now completed a review of the tactical aircraft situation. In the case of air munitions, we found it prudent to decrease production rates while building to an air ordnance inventory of more than 500,000 tons within a year."

"Because of the long leadtimes involved in aircraft production, I have come to the conclusion that it is wise now to place on order aircraft that may be required to support operations beyond June 30, 1967," he elaborated.

"Our review was based on many factors, including projections on numbers and types of sorties and predicted loss rates. It takes into account all experience to date. Tactical aircraft production schedules for Fiscal Years 1966, 1967 and 1968 have been developed to insure that new deliveries of aircraft will exceed potential losses."

The defense secretary indicated that most of the additional planes would be for the Navy and would come from existing or soon-to-be opened production lines.

President's Letter Congratulates Air Force on 19th Anniversary

In a letter to Air Force Association President Jess Larson, President Johnson lauded the Air Force on its 19th Anniversary as a separate service.

The President's letter paid tribute to men and women of the Air Force, and from an operational standpoint stated, "In Southeast Asia particularly, our Air Force has responded brilliantly to the difficult task of limited conflict with limited objectives.

"This achievement has often required the application of new tactical and strategic doctrines and it reflects great credit on Air Force planners and operational people that they have been able—so quickly and effectively—to put their ideas to work."

The President noted that while roles increased in Southeast Asia, the Air Force continued to fulfill its responsibility of deterring general war.

OCT 7 1966

GREENLAND ICE SHEET—Army Researchers B. L. Hansen, (left), and Dr. Chester C. Langway Jr., study a core of gravelly soil taken from under very bottom of Greenland Ice Sheet. Core section, recovered after nearly one mile of drilling, was part of Greenland's surface 100 centuries ago.

Army Scientists Achieve Major Breakthrough in Ice Research

Army scientists have drilled through nearly a mile of the polar ice cap in a research program which will provide a vertical profile of polar history dating back at least 10,000 years.

The purpose, which has now been realized, was to provide a continuous ice core from top to bottom of the Greenland Ice Sheet for thorough study.

Army, working on a National Science Foundation grant, conducted its research program in Greenland by agreement with the Government of Denmark. The drilling site was at Camp Century, 140 miles out on the ice cap from Greenland's upper northwest coast.

Final depth of 4,562 feet was reached by a team from Army Materiel Command's Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory on July 4, 1966. Samples of intermingled sand, gravel and stones were brought to the surface from 12 feet below the ice sheet.

One scientist noted that ice cores recovered from the 1,800 foot level fell as snow about the time Christ was born.

Core studies are expected to disclose whether land under the ice was ever exposed to the air—free of ice—or if it lay under the sea at any time in history.

Washington Memos

DOD CASUALTY REPORT shows that 5,160 U. S. service personnel have lost their lives in RVN from hostile force actions between Jan. 1, 1961-Sept. 17, 1966, inclusive. An additional 1,098 lost their lives from non-hostile action causes.

MARINE CORPS SELECTION Board convened in Washington Sept. 19 to select eligible senior NCOs for promotion to E-8 and E-9. Board is scheduled to be in session eight weeks and has authority to select 214 sergeant majors and master gunnery sergeants. No allocations for first sergeants and master sergeants have been announced.

TOTAL COMMISSIONED OFFICER strength of WACS, WAVES, WAFS and Women Marines as line officers is currently 2,143. Number of nurses and medical specialists for all three military departments is 9,280.

AN INTERIM CHANGE to AFM 35-11 notes that officers graduating from Air Force flying training for which an aeronautical rating is awarded are now obligated for assignment to primary aircrew duties for at least five consecutive years. Command authority to impose minimum five-year tours for aircrew officers was suspended three years ago.

ARMY AIR AMBULANCES are logging about 3,800 missions monthly in RVN. During June 1966, 3,805 missions were flown evacuating 5,331 wounded, injured and sick soldiers to hospitals. This included airlifting United States, Vietnamese and Free World Military Assistance Forces' patients. Since introduction of Army air ambulances into RVN in 1962 and through June 30, 1966, 46,762 patients have been airlifted by helicopter.

MANPOWER REHABILITATION AWARD won by Defense Department for supporting national goals to control crime and delinquency. Award was made by Joint Commission on Correctional Manpower and Training, a private, non-profit organization established last year to produce more and better-trained manpower to restore criminal offenders to society.

ARMY SELECTION BOARD, convened July 5, 1966, to recommend warrant officers for temporary promotion to top two warrant grades, has adjourned.

AWARDS IN RECOGNITION of achievements in civilian personnel management and administration have been announced by Air Force. Clark AB in Philippines won Class I category; Charleston AFB, S.C., Class II; and Laredo AFB, Tex., Class III. Awards are to be presented at Air Force Personnel Development Center, Maxwell AFB, Ala., Oct. 10.

GENERAL AVIATION GROWING by leaps and bounds is theme of a new Federal Aviation Agency report, "General Aviation, A Study and Forecast of the Fleet and its Use in 1975." FAA expects non-airline traffic to be 80 or 90 percent greater than in 1964, some 160,000 private planes in the sky then, versus the 88,742 flying two years ago.

SAVINGS BONDS HOLDINGS gained $78 million during August, Treasury Department reports. Sale of E and H bonds in August amounted to $387 million, with cost price redemptions at $366 million, leaving net monthly increase of $21 million.

ARMY MATERIEL COMMAND will hold special three-day conference, first of its kind in Army, beginning Oct. 4 at Ft. Lee, Va., to consider continuing education of AMC engineer, scientific and technical personnel. Purpose of conference is to establish uniform policy guidance for training and education of AMC professional and technical personnel and to provide forum for exchange of ideas and information on education for engineers and scientists.

NAVY VIETNAM DUTY involves about 12 percent of U.S. Navy's active duty force that numbers nearly three-quarters of a million men and women. Citing these figures, Navy Secretary Paul H. Nitze told Fleet Reserve Association National Convention at Las Vegas, Nev., Sept. 20 that the 12 percent "are involved in, or directly supporting, combat operations in South Vietnam."

ARMY RESERVE PERSONNEL attending program sessions of AUSA's annual meeting in Washington, D. C., Oct. 10-12, are authorized one retirement credit for each day's attendance.

MARINES IN VIETNAM number more than 20 percent of Marine Corps 278,000 force level to be attained by end of this fiscal year, according to Navy Secretary Nitze in his Las Vegas speech. "Of their present numbers, more than 20 percent are in III Marine Amphibious Force, fighting in the I Corps area of South Vietnam," he said.

1966 KINCHELOE TROPHY awarded to NASA civilian research pilot Milton O. Thompson. Award memorializes Capt. Ivan C. Kincheloe, Air Force test pilot who lost his life in an aircraft accident.

SPECIALIZED COMPUTER ANALYSIS is employed by Navy in personnel field and broken out into eight areas. Areas are Submarines, Anti-submarine Warfare, Anti-Air Warfare, Nuclear Power, Command and Control, Rating, Aircraft, and Automatic Data Processing. Full time project manager is assigned each area to tailor personnel plans to fit needs of Navy and abilities and skills of individuals.

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Published semi-weekly by Press Division Armed Forces News Bureau, 1117 No. 19th St., Arlington, Va. 22209, a unified activity of the Directorate for Armed Forces Information and Education, OASD(M). This publication contains official information, news and policy, direct from Washington authorized sources. Reproduction of content is authorized. Suggested dateline for materials used is WASHINGTON (AFNB).

Background for Commanders

VIETNAM: PEACE AIMS AND PROSPECTS*

The conflict in Vietnam is first of all an Asian issue, whose tragedy and suffering fall most heavily on the peoples directly involved. But its repercussions are worldwide.

It is because of the attempt to upset by violence the situation in Vietnam, and its far-reaching implications elsewhere, that the United States and other countries have responded to appeals from South Vietnam for military assistance.

Our aims in giving this assistance are strictly limited.

- We are **not** engaged in a "holy war" against communism.
- We do **not** seek to establish an American empire or a "sphere of influence" in Asia.
- We seek **no** permanent military bases, no permanent establishment of troops, no permanent alliances, no permanent American "presence" of any kind in South Vietnam.
- We do **not** seek to impose a policy of alignment on South Vietnam.
- We do **not** seek the overthrow of the Government of North Vietnam.
- We do **not** seek to do any injury to mainland China nor to threaten any of its legitimate interests.
- We do **not** ask of North Vietnam an unconditional surrender or indeed the surrender of anything that belongs to it; **nor** do we seek to exclude any segment of the South Vietnamese people from peaceful participation in their country's future.

Our Affirmative Aims

- We **want** a political solution, not a military solution, to this conflict. We reject the idea that North Vietnam has a right to impose a military solution.
- We **seek** to assure for the people of South Vietnam the same right of self-determination—to decide their own political destiny, free of force—that the United Nations Charter affirms for all.
- And we **believe** that reunification of Vietnam should be decided upon through a free choice by the peoples of both the North and South without outside interference, the results of which choice we are fully prepared to support.

No differences can be resolved without contact, discussions or negotiations. We have long been and remain today ready to negotiate without prior conditions. We are prepared to discuss Hanoi's four points together with any points which other parties may wish to raise. We are ready to negotiate a settlement based on a strict observance of the 1954 and 1962 Geneva Agreements. And we will support a reconvening of the Geneva Conference, or an Asian conference, or any other generally acceptable form.

Proposals to Clear the Way for Negotiations

We are aware that some perceive obstacles [other than lack of agreement on peace aims], and I wish to make three proposals with respect to them:

- It is said that one obstacle is the United States bombing of North Vietnam. We are prepared to order a cessation of all bombing of North Vietnam—the moment we are assured, privately or otherwise, that this step will be answered promptly by a corresponding and appropriate de-escalation on the other side.
- Another obstacle is said to be North Vietnam's conviction or fear that the United States intends to establish a permanent military presence in Vietnam. The United States stands ready to withdraw its forces as others withdraw theirs so that peace can be restored in South Vietnam, and favors international machinery to ensure effective supervision of the withdrawal.
- A further obstacle is said to be disagreement over the place of the Viet Cong in the negotiations. Our view on this matter was stated by President Johnson, who made clear that, as far as we are concerned, this question would not be "an insurmountable problem." We invite the authorities in Hanoi to consider whether this obstacle to negotiation may not be more imaginary than real.

We offer these proposals in the interest of peace in Southeast Asia. There may be other proposals. We have not been and are not now inflexible in our position. But we do believe that, whatever approach finally succeeds, it will not be one which simply decries what is happening in Vietnam and appeals to one side to stop while encouraging the other. Such a position can only further delay the peace we all desire and fervently hope for. The only workable formula for a settlement will be one which is just to the basic interests of all who are involved.

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* *Excerpts from statement by Ambassador Arthur J. Goldberg before the United Nations.*

Time in Service Cut For Army E-5 Promotions

Outstanding Army inductees and enlistees can look forward to making E–5 after 15 months service under a new promotion policy.

Army has reduced the time in service for promotion to E–5 from 24 to 21 months. A six month waiver may be granted, further reducing the minimum time to 15 months.

Among those affected are inductees of the September 1965 draft call, the first large call in the current build up, who may be considered for E–5 promotion in December 1966, rather than March 1967.

Marine Helicopter Crews To Get Stronger Flight Helmets

A new flight helmet having four times the strength protection of those now in use will soon be available for Marine Corps helicopter crew members in Southeast Asia.

Besides providing increased head protection from ballistic fragments while landing troops by vertical assault in enemy occupied zones, the new helmets also provide "excellent" crash impact protection and noise attenuation.

The helmet, developed by Naval Systems Command, also has a dual eye-protective visor.

Shell of the helmet is molded of ballistic nylon and resins and lined with foamed plastic. The helmet assembly weighs five pounds.

British, U.S. Army Units Hold Colorado Maneuvers

British and U.S. Army Units will hold joint maneuvers in October at Fort Carson, Colo., to maintain a closer understanding of training techniques common to U.S. and U.K. forces.

A mechanized infantry company of the 1st Bn. of the Cheshire Regiment and an armored troop from the 16/5th Lancers will take part in training Exercise "Wild Sunset" Oct. 2-26 with the U.S. 5th Inf. Div.

SOUVENIR—Capt. Edwin T. Hawks Jr., USAF, holds a memento of North Viet Nam. Hawk's RF-4C Phantom was downed by ground fire while on photo reconnaissance mission, and pilot grabbed branch for souvenir as he was lifted to safety by rescue helicopter.

AF Cross Goes Posthumously To First Enlisted Recipient

Airman First Class William H. Pitsenbarger has been posthumously awarded the Air Force's second highest decoration, the Air Force Cross, for extraordinary heroism in Vietnam.

Air Force Chief of Staff General John P. McConnell presented the award to the airman's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Pitsenbarger at a Pentagon ceremony.

Airman Pitsenbarger became the first enlisted man to receive this honor.

General McConnell also announced that Airman Pitsenbarger earned the Airman's Medal, four Air Medals and the Purple Heart for other heroism and meritorious achievements while in Vietnam.

The 21-year-old airman was killed by Viet Cong after he volunteered to be lowered from a rescue helicopter to assist wounded U.S. ground troops.

Marine Corps Receives New CH-53A Helicopters

The Free World's "largest and fastest production helicopter," the CH-53A Sea Stallion, has been received by the Marine Corps Air Station at Santa Ana, Calif.

Marines say the chopper has been flown at 230 mph speeds and has consistently hauled gross weights of 42,000 pounds.

Five of the CH-53A helicopters are serving now with HMH-463 (heavy helicopter Squadron) for a 30-day fleet indoctrination, including a shipboard shakedown.

USAF Presents Medical Equipment to Azores

The USAF People-to-People Program is reaching the remote, outlying islands of the Azores. Recently, a delegation of 22nd AF personnel visited the small islands of Faial and Pico with a quantity of medical and veterinary equipment.

A survey of hospital facilities was also made to determine additional medical needs which might be presented under the People-to-People Program.

Some of the equipment included a 50 KW electric generator for hospital emergency power on the Island of Pico, tractor parts for the soil management farm on Faial, and 1,000 pounds of seed for cattle feeding crops.

Roy Rogers-Dale Evans Show Takes October Vietnam Tour

American Western film stars Roy Rogers and Dale Evans are scheduled to entertain U.S. servicemen in Vietnam for 17 days beginning Oct. 13.

The tour is being sponsored by the USO and Hollywood Overseas Committee.

The "Roy Rogers-Dale Evans Show" includes Wayne West and the "Travelons," Western and country music recording artists.

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.
Price 5 cents (single copy). Subscription Price: $2.50 per year; $3.25 additional for foreign mailing.

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